Common Origination and Disbursement

COD Processing Update
For Pell Grants

April 9, 2004

Pell Grants

COD News

COD Web Site Outage April 11, 2004 (04/08/04)
The COD web site will undergo routine maintenance Sunday, April 11, 2004 and is expected to be unavailable from 2:00 AM until 8:00 AM eastern time. COD apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any questions about COD, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

EDExpress for Windows 2004-2005, Release 2.0 Guidance for COD Web-Initiated Pell Origination and Disbursement Activity (04/08/04)
The U.S. Department of Education's new EDExpress for Windows 2004-2005, Release 2.0 software continues to enable Pell module users to exchange origination and actual disbursement data with the COD System via the COD web site (cod.ed.gov).

Detailed information regarding origination and disbursement activities that can be performed via the COD web site by EDExpress Pell Grant users is available as an Electronic Announcement on the IFAP web site at:
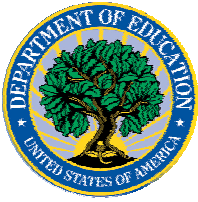http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0406PellWebInitiatedActNetMsg0405.html.

Prior to submitting any Pell Grant data via the COD web site, a school should verify that its web activity response option is set to "Y" on the COD web site's School Options Information screen. This will ensure that responses are received for web-based activities.

In order to verify that you are set up to receive responses for web-based activities:
1. Access the COD web site, www.cod.ed.gov.
2. From the School Summary Information screen, click on the Options link (located on the left side of the screen) to display the School Options Information screen.
3. If the Web Activity Response Option field is set to "N", you will need to update this option to "Y" by clicking on the Update tab (located at the bottom of the School Options Information screen). The School Options Update screen will be displayed.
4. From the School Options Update screen, select "Y" from the dropdown box in the Web Activity Response Option field and then click on the Update tab.

If you need assistance using EDExpress, please contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or via e-mail at CPSSAIG@pearson.com.

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Resolved Issues Section of COD Processing Update (04/07/04)
In response to recent feedback, COD has enhanced the Resolved Issues section of the COD Processing Update to contain issues that have been resolved within the past *14* calendar days. Previously, the Resolved Issues section in the COD Processing Update contained issues that had been resolved within the past 7 calendar days. Also, this section will continue to contain vital information about any clean up action that has been taken by COD or is needed by schools.

2003-2004 Global Reduction of CFL (04/06/04)
Each Spring, as a part of routine funds control, the Department of Education reduces a school's Current Funding Level (CFL) to the amount of the Total Net Accepted and Posted Disbursements.   In early March 2004, a text message was sent to the SAIG mailboxes of potentially affected schools as a warning that if a school's CFL exceeded the Total Net Accepted and Posted Disbursements as of April 2, 2004, the school's CFL would be reduced to that amount.

On April 5, 2004, COD reduced the CFLs of approximately 100 schools to the amount of their Total Net Accepted and Posted Disbursements. Also, a text message was sent to the affected schools' SAIG mailboxes notifying them of the amount of the reduction. If you have any questions regarding this message, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

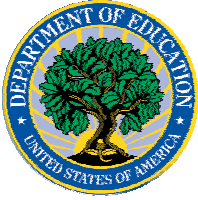**Availability of EDExpress for Windows 2004-2005, Release 2.0 (04/06/04)**
The U.S. Department of Education is pleased to announce the release of EDExpress for Windows 2004-2005, Release 2.0, on the Department's Federal Student Aid Download (FSADownload) Web site (located at http://fsadownload.ed.gov). This release adds Pell and Direct Loan processing functionality for the 2004-2005 cycle.

In addition, the following EDExpress for Windows 2004-2005 documents are available on the FSADownload Web site:

1) The EDExpress for Windows 2004-2005, Release 2.0 Cover Letter

2) The EDExpress for Windows 2004-2005, Release 2.0 Desk Reference (covers Pell and Direct Loan processing functionality)

These documents, along with the EDExpress for Windows 2004-2005 Installation Guide (also available on the FSADownload Web site) contain important information regarding EDExpress functionality and enhancements that schools should review.

If you need assistance connecting to the FSADownload site, downloading EDExpress in single or multiple file format, or with the installation or use of EDExpress, please contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or via e-mail at CPSSAIG@pearson.com.

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2003-2004 Verification Status Code "W" Warning Message [04/01/04 (Updated 04/02/04)]
On April 2, 2004, COD generated a text message (PGTX04OP) as well as a file of student records (PGRC04OP) to the SAIG mailboxes of approximately 600 schools that have one or more student records still reported with a verification status code of "W". The message is a warning that these disbursements will be considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount ($0.00), even if the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System.

Unfortunately, the warning message indicated that the reduction of the affected disbursements was scheduled to occur on April 1, 2004 instead of April 30, 2004. COD has sent a corrected warning message to the affected schools.

An electronic announcement regarding the warning message has been posted on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0331VerificationReporting0304.html.

COD would like to apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. If you have questions about the warning message or about reporting verification status codes to the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center.
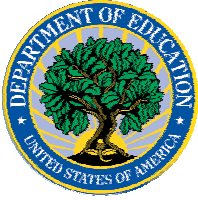
Resolved Issues

First 2002-2003 ACA Payments Displayed As Drawdowns In COD [09/18/03 (Updated 04/01/04)]
COD previously notified schools of an issue where the first ACA payments for 2002-2003 were displaying on the COD web site as drawdowns. This caused a school to appear as if it had unsubstantiated cash.

COD completed the cleanup of this issue, and schools will no longer see their first 2002-2003 ACA payments reflected as drawdowns on the Funding Information screen. Additionally, COD created a negative adjustment transaction on the Cash Activity screen dated March 26, 2004 containing the same amount as the original ACA payment. The negative transaction offsets the erroneous positive transaction.

COD believes this cleanup is resolved. If you experience any occurrences of this issue in the future, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

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COD Issue from 2004-2005 System Implementation [03/17/04 (Updated 03/25/04)]
Previously COD notified you of the following system issue that was related to the 2004-2005 system implementation.

➢ When performing an Applicant Search, the COD System was not decoding the SSA match flag field properly. As a result, users were viewing a number value of 1-4 instead of the description.

COD development corrected the coding problem on March 24, 2004. The correct description for the SSA match flag now appears on the COD web site.

Current Issues

Delay in Receiving Funding (04/08/04)
Due to issues identified within the COD System, some schools may experience a delay in receiving their Pell Grant funding. This is affecting requests made on Monday, April 5, 2004. We anticipate that these issues will be resolved shortly and will provide appropriate updates. We apologize for any inconvenience and are working to resolve the issues as soon as possible. If you have any questions about COD or your funding, please contact the COD School Relations Center.
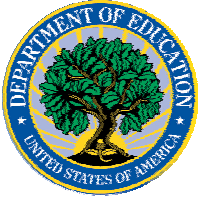
COD Edit 115 Not Working Correctly (04/06/04)
COD has identified an issue where COD Edit 115 (Student Referred to DCS but repayment schedule not established, no further disbursements can be accepted for this student for this award year) is being returned incorrectly to schools that attempt to increase/decrease an actual disbursement (DRI=True) for a student that has been referred to DCS for collection of a Pell Grant overpayment.

Additionally, the Pell Grant referral amount and payment amount collected are not being updated correctly in the Pell Collection Referral Amount and Pell Collection Amount Collected fields on the COD web site's Award Detail Information screen. The COD development team is researching these issues, and we will provide updates as they become available.

COD Edit 116 Not Working Correctly [01/06/04 (Updated 03/26/04)]
COD has found that COD Edit 116 (SSN, Date of Birth and/or Last Name have not been updated in the COD System) is not working properly. This edit is a warning that is returned when changes to the Student Identifier information are submitted and the reported CPS Transaction Number and Award Year combination is not greater than the combination that currently exists in COD.

Because this edit is not working correctly schools are unable to submit new 2003-2004 originations or make online changes when previous award year information is different for a student in COD. The COD development team has created the test scenarios and is testing them. COD will provide updates on this issue as progress is made.

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COD Web Site Response Time (03/19/04)
COD has learned that users of the COD web site are experiencing poor response time and receiving log errors when performing searches between the hours of approximately 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM eastern time.

COD is currently researching the cause of the issues and monitoring the web site during these times. We are asking users to be patient. In the meantime, COD Customer Service would like schools to e-mail screen shots of any errors received while performing a search to the COD School Relations Center at CODSupport@acs-inc.com. COD will provide updates as they become available.

COD Financial Screens Incorrect on COD Web Site [05/05/03 (Updated 03/19/04)]
As previously reported, the COD web site financial screens are displaying incorrect information. The "Summary Financial Info" screen is not displaying correct figures in the fields of "Disbursement Amount", "Disbursement Adjustment Amount" and "Ending Cash Balance".

Additionally, COD has found the Total Unduplicated Recipients field on the "Funding Information" screen is not displaying the correct figure. Schools can refer to the "Yearly Totals" screen to view the correct figure for the Total Unduplicated Recipients.
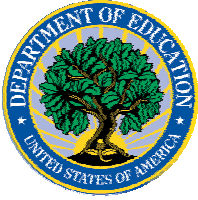
COD is working to resolve these discrepancies. In the meantime, schools should refer to the "Funding Information Screen" for correct figures (with the exception of the Total Unduplicated Recipients). COD is asking schools to be patient regarding progress on this issue. Resources are focused on other items at this time, so progress will continue to be slow. If you have any questions regarding your funding in the meantime, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

Disbursements Not Displaying on COD Web Site [12/11/03 (Updated 03/08/04)]
COD has identified an issue where disbursements/adjustments are being processed in COD, but are not appearing on the Disbursement List screen. However, the accepted disbursements are appearing on the Batch screen and being acknowledged correctly to schools. Also in some cases, sequence numbers for the disbursements are not appearing on the History screen.

COD has determined the cause of the problem. The data was not populated in the COD database correctly when the disbursements/adjustments were processed, resulting in the disbursements not appearing on the web site. COD has identified two different code fixes and cleanups that need to take place to resolve the problem.

The first code fix has been migrated. The clean up plan for the affected records has been developed, and we will be performing the cleanup shortly. COD continues to test the second code fix and will notify schools when testing has been completed. In the meantime, please be patient and do not resubmit the disbursements/adjustments for processing; these transactions have already been acknowledged back to schools.

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Mixed Person Records In COD (03/02/04)

As you are aware, the COD System is based on the establishment of a person record and contains person records established as early as 1999-2000. COD has discovered that primarily due to inaccurate SSNs that have entered the COD System, approximately 300 records (out of approximately 14 million person records in the COD System) have mixed with other COD records. Since PLUS borrowers are not matched with CPS, the majority of the people affected by this issue are PLUS borrowers. COD has a dedicated team working to resolve the small number of records that have been mixed. We would like to assure you that if your data has been affected by this rare problem it is not lost in the COD System and it will be corrected.

Specifically, COD has identified two scenarios related to this issue. In the first scenario, one person appears twice within the COD System, with different awards under each profile. In the second scenario, two persons have the same SSN in the COD System with mixed profiles and awards. These problems usually occur when incorrect SSNs are submitted to COD and are compounded when the incorrect SSN matches another person's correct SSN.

COD is working on further detailed instructions that will assist you in avoiding these scenarios and, if necessary, in correcting them. If you have any questions, please contact the COD School Relations Center.